# Moving Forward on Environmental Public Health Tracking

Judith R. Qualters, Ph.D.

Chief, Environmental Health Tracking Branch
Division of Environmental Hazards and Health Effects
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Email - EPHT@cdc.gov Phone - 404-498-1815



# CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program Focus for 2005

- Taking steps for network implementation
- Ensuring a strong foundation for program activities
- Mapping future program directions



## CDC's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

### Mission & Goals

To provide information from a nation-wide network of integrated environmental monitoring and public health data so that all sectors may take action to prevent and control environmentally related health effects.



Goal #1:
Build a
Sustainable,
National
Environment
al Public
Health
Tracking
Network



Goal #2:
Increase
Environment
al Public
Health
Tracking
Capacity



Goal #3: Dissemina te Credible Informatio n

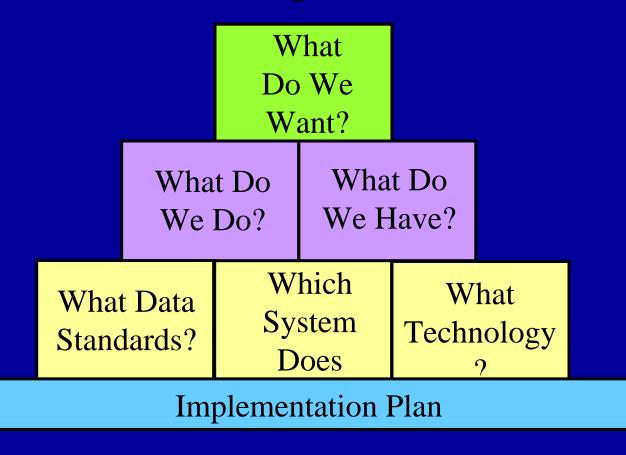


Goal #4:
Advance
Environment
al Public
Health
Science and
Research



# Goal #1: Build a Sustainable, National Environmental Public Health Tracking

Working Through IT Metwork Planning Process to Move to Implementation





# Goal #1: Build a Sustainable, National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (cont'd)

- In 2004: Network Vision documented
  - Product of CDC, SND, SAIC
  - Purpose:
    - Describes the function and purpose of the NEPHTN
    - Provides profiles of stakeholders and users
    - Outlines major features
    - Describes benefits and external constraints



# Goal #1: Build a Sustainable, National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (cont'd)

- In FY2005:
  - Refine our model for the "business" of EPHT
  - Gather detailed requirements
    - Technical
    - Functions and features
    - Content
    - Web-based prototype will serve as one tool
  - Develop our "picture" of the Network
  - Develop NEPHTN Implementation Plan 1.0



## **Priority Setting**

### **Compiling information from:**

- Strategic planning
- Feedback on state/local cooperative agreement activities as reported through:

- Progress reports - Informal communication

Conference calls - Workshops/conferences/ Regional meetings

Site visits- Activity matrix

- Previously established national priorities (e.g. Healthy People)
- Feedback from other stakeholders
- Congressional intent
- Branch scoping activities



# National EPHT Network Priorities Health Conditions

## Priorities – Chicago, 2003

- Asthma
- Birth Defects
- Cancer
- Lead Poisoning
- Pesticide Poisoning

#### Where we are now....

- Asthma
- Birth Defects
- Cancer
- Heavy Metal poisoning
- Pesticide poisoning



# Goal #2: Increase Environmental Public Health Tracking Capacity

- Training
  - Continue training in conjunction with workshops and conferences
  - EPHT 101 course
- Support National Organizations' activities
- Initiate web-based seminars
- Increase technical/scientific support



## Goal #3: Disseminate Credible Information

- Implement communications/outreach strategy
  - PMO workgroup activities
  - EPHT listserv
  - EPHT newsletter
- Explore options for Trackingfocused publications
- National Conference April 2005



# Goal #4: Advance Environmental Public Health Science and Research

- Compile and assess linkage/analysis methods used in demonstration projects
- Complete ongoing projects:
  - HELIX-Atlanta
  - PHASE
- Initiate Rapid Inquiry Facility Feasibility Project
- Develop EPHT research agenda



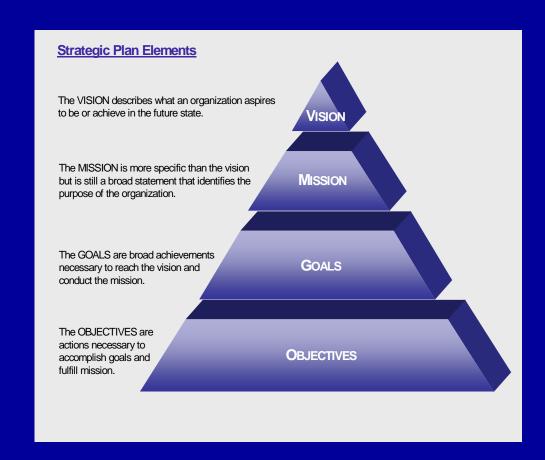
## Goal #5: Bridge the Gap Between Public Health and the Environment

- Build new partnerships
- Improve alignment between CDC and EPA environmental health activities
- Complete and disseminate EPHT Strategic Plan



## **Strategic Planning**

- Where are we going?
- How will we get there?
- What difference will we make?





## Strategic Planning (cont'd)

- CDC has contracted with Bearing Point
- Builds on previous work
- Will align with other strategic planning initiatives within CDC
- Stakeholder input part of the process
- Will cover 2005 through 2010
- Goal completed plan by Jan 2005



### **Conclusions**

- We've come a long way together
- Continued rapid progress in 2005
- Driving principle for Network:
  - It must be simple, useful, practical, and have scientific validity.
- Target: 50% of states will be part of a National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network by 2010

